

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of
Southern California Gas Company (U 904 G)
for Authority to Revise its Rates Effective
January 1, 2003, in its Biennial Cost Allocation
Proceeding.

Application 01-09-024

In the Matter of the Application of
San Diego Gas & Electric Company (902-G)
for Authority to Revise its Gas Rates Effective
January 1, 2003, in its Biennial Cost Allocation
Proceeding.

Application 01-10-005

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE'S RULING
DENYING MOTION FOR ORDER SHORTENING TIME**

Summary

This ruling denies the Office of Ratepayer Advocates' (ORA) Motion for an order shortening time to respond to the Motion to Suspend the Procedural Schedule and Defer the Biennial Cost Allocation Proceedings (BCAP) for 12 months¹ from 15 days to 7 days.

¹ Concurrently with the Motion for Order Shortening Time, ORA filed a Motion to Suspend the Procedural Schedule and Defer the Biennial Cost Allocation Proceedings for a period of 12 months.

Background

On September 21, 2001, Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) filed its Application for authority to revise its rates effective January 1, 2003, in its Biennial Cost Allocation Proceeding (BCAP) and on October 5, 2001, San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) filed its BCAP Application. Since that time, both utilities amended their applications twice, once to include embedded cost based allocation and the second time to address issues raised in Decision (D.) 01-12-018, that adopted, with modifications, the SoCalGas “Comprehensive Settlement” in Investigation (I.) 99-07-003, the gas industry restructuring proceeding. SoCalGas filing its second amended application on March 4, 2002, and SDG&E filing its second amended application on March 18, 2002.

Due to the filing of the amended applications, the procedural schedule for the filing of testimony and hearings has been delayed. The current schedule calls for ORA to file its testimony on SoCalGas’ application on June 14, 2002, and on SDG&E’s application on June 28, 2002.

Motion by ORA

ORA filed its motion to suspend the procedural schedule and defer the BCAP proceedings for 12 months because ORA cannot properly staff the BCAPs given the press of other business at the Commission this year, including the processing of three major energy utility general rate cases and over 20 water company general rate cases. ORA filed its motion for an order shortening time so it could know, as soon as possible, whether it should proceed with processing the BCAP applications.

Discussion

Given the significance of the motion to suspend the BCAP proceedings for 12 months, the Commission wants all parties to these proceedings to have the full statutory time of 15 days to respond and fully consider whether they agree with, or oppose, ORA's motion.

IT IS RULED that the Office of Ratepayer Advocates' Motion for Order Shortening Time to Respond to the Motion to Suspend the Procedural Schedule from 15 days to 7 is denied.

Dated March 22, 2002, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ CAROL A. BROWN

Carol A. Brown
Administrative Law Judge

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have by mail, and by electronic mail, to the parties to which an electronic mail address has been provided, this day served a true copy of the original attached Administrative Law Judge's Ruling Denying Motion for Order Shortening Time on all parties of record in this proceeding or their attorneys of record.

Dated March 22, 2002, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ TERESITA C. GALLARDO
Teresita C. Gallardo

N O T I C E

Parties should notify the Process Office, Public Utilities Commission, 505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 2000, San Francisco, CA 94102, of any change of address to insure that they continue to receive documents. You must indicate the proceeding number on the service list on which your name appears.

The Commission's policy is to schedule hearings (meetings, workshops, etc.) in locations that are accessible to people with disabilities. To verify that a particular location is accessible, call: Calendar Clerk (415) 703-1203.

If specialized accommodations for the disabled are needed, e.g., sign language interpreters, those making the arrangements must call the Public Advisor at (415) 703-2074,

A.01-09-024, A.01-10-005 CAB/tcg

TTY 1-866-836-7825 or (415) 703-5282 at least three working days in advance of the event.